

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 05462 080813Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 SOE-02 DODE-00  
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PA-02 /114 W  
-----056107 080821Z /13

P R 080728Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 776  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
USUN NEW YORK 2392

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5462

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: DESAI CREDITED WITH NEUTRON BOMB DECISION

1. AFTER WEEKS OF PRESS ATTACKS ON THE USG FOR  
DISCRIMINATION IN ITS NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES  
(THE DELAY IN THE SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR TARAPUR HAS  
BEEN PORTRAYED AS ARM TWISTING TO FORCE ACCEPTANCE OF  
US VIEWS), A PROMINENT INDIAN DAILY, "THE STATESMAN",  
HAS PRAISED PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION NOT TO PRODUCE  
THE NEUTRON BOMB. THE APRIL 8 EDITION HEADLINES A STORY  
FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, WARREN UNNA: "USA HEEDS  
DESAI PLEA AGAINST NEUTRON BOMB." UNNA REPORTS THAT THE  
PM FIRST PRIVATELY ARGUED AGAINST THE WEAPON IN  
HIS CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THAT  
INDIAN VIEWS WERE MADE KNOWN THROUGH AMBASSADOR PALKHIAVALA  
AND STATEMENTS IN PARLIAMENT. THE CORRESPONDENT  
QUALIFIES DESAI'S ROLE BY ADMITTING THAT: "IT IS  
NOT KNOWN WHAT WEIGHT-- IF ANY-- THE PRIME MINISTER'S  
ARGUMENTS MAY HAVE HAD ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S  
RETHINKING. BUT ON AN ALLIED NUCLEAR MATTER--  
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INDIA'S CRITICISM OF THE NUCLEAR 'HAVES'  
ASKING THE NUCLEAR 'HAVE-NOTS' TO DISARM, BUT NOT  
THEMSELVES--- MR. DESAI'S ARGUMENTS NOW HAVE BEEN  
AS THE HINDU'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT HAD EARLIER  
(NEW DELHI 5272) ACKNOWLEDGED."

UNNA CITES A VANCE TO CARTER LETTER ON THE SUBJECT OF AN

INTERNATIONAL BAN ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS MATERIAL  
PRODUCTION AS STATING THAT "THE PROPOSAL 'DIRECTLY ADDRESSES  
CONCERNS EXPRESSED' BY MR. DESAI 'AND HENCE WOULD  
IMPROVE PROSPECTS' FOR INDIA COMING TO  
INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION OF HER OWN NUCLEAR  
FACILITIES AS NO LONGER DISCRIMINATORY."  
UNNA REPORTS SPECULATION THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB NEVER SQUARED  
WITH THE PRESIDENT'S "BASIC INSTINCTS FOR WORLD  
DISARMAMENT." HE CONCLUDES THAT WITH THIS ISSUE  
ASIDE, THE PRESIDENT AND PM MAY FIND IT "A BIT EASIER"  
TI DISCUSS THE SAFEGUARDS QUESTION WHEN THEY MEET IN  
WASHINGTON.

2. THE APRIL 8 "INDIAN EXPRESS" CARRIED A BOSTON  
DATELINED REPORT OF AMBASSADOR PALKHIAVALA'S STATEMENT TO THE  
WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL DEFENDING THE GOI REFUSAL TO  
ACCEPT FULLSCOPE SAFEGUARDS. HE REPORTEDLY DECRIED THE  
US POSITION WHICH CREATED TWO REGIMES-- WEAPONS AND  
NON-WEAPONS STATES -- AS DISCRIMINATORY.  
GOHEEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NEWDE05462  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780152-0307  
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**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Message ID:** 04b1aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3030170  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DESAI CREDITED WITH NEUTRON BOMB DECISION  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PARM, MNUC, US, IN, (DESAI, MORARJI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/04b1aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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